

**LETCHER COUNTY REPORT  
OF  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN  
PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES  
OF  
KENTUCKY**

**KENTUCKY STATE NATURE  
PRESERVES COMMISSION  
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# Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

## Key for County List Report

Within a county, elements are arranged first by taxonomic complexity (plants first, natural communities last), and second by scientific name. A key to status, ranks, and count data fields follows.

### STATUS

KSNPC: Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission status:

N or blank = none    E = endangered    T = threatened    S = special concern    H = historic    X = extirpated

USESA: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service status:

blank = none    C = candidate    LT = listed as threatened    LE = listed as endangered

SOMC = Species of Management Concern

### RANKS

GRANK: Estimate of element abundance on a global scale:

G1 = Critically imperiled

GU = Unrankable

G2 = Imperiled

G#? = Inexact rank (e.g. G2?)

G3 = Vulnerable

G#Q = Questionable taxonomy

G4 = Apparently secure

G#T# = Intraspecific taxa (Subspecies and variety abundances are coded with a 'T' suffix; the 'G' portion of the rank then refers to the entire species)

G5 = Secure

GH = Historic, possibly extinct

GNR = Unranked

GX = Presumed extinct

GNA = Not applicable

SRANK: Estimate of element abundance in Kentucky:

S1 = Critically imperiled

SU = Unrankable

S2 = Imperiled

S#? = Inexact rank (e.g. G2?)

S3 = Vulnerable

S#Q = Questionable taxonomy

S4 = Apparently secure

S#T# = Intraspecific taxa

S5 = Secure

SNR = Unranked

SH = Historic, possibly extirpated

SNA = Not applicable

SX = Presumed extirpated

Migratory species may have separate ranks for different population segments (e.g. S1B, S2N, S4M):

S#B = Rank of breeding population

S#N = Rank of non-breeding population

S#M = Rank of transient population

### COUNT DATA FIELDS

# OF OCCURRENCES: Number of occurrences of a particular element from a county. Column headings are as follows:

E - currently reported from the county

H - reported from the county but not seen for at least 20 years

F - reported from county & cannot be relocated but for which further inventory is needed

X - known to be extirpated from the county

U - reported from a county but cannot be mapped to a quadrangle or exact location.

The data from which the county report is generated is continually updated. The date on which the report was created is in the report footer. Contact KSNPC for a current copy of the report.

Please note that the quantity and quality of data collected by the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Kentucky have never been thoroughly surveyed, and new species of plants and animals are still being discovered. For these reasons, the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of Kentucky. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program at the time of the request regarding the biological elements or locations in question. They should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments.

KSNPC appreciates the submission of any endangered species data for Kentucky from field observations. For information on data reporting or other data services provided by KSNPC, please contact the Data Manager at:

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County	Taxonomic Group	Scientific name	Common name	Statuses	Ranks	# of Occurrences				
						E	H	F	X	U
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Anomodon rugelii</i>		T /	G5 / S2?	2	0	0	0	0
		On rocks (esp limestone) also commonly on bark at or near the base of trees, less often on rotten logs and stumps (Crum and Anderson 1981).								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Brachythecium populeum</i>	Matted Feather Moss	E /	G5 / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		On rocks (apparently most often acid), sometimes on a thin mantle of soil in woods (Crum and Anderson). In KY, sandstone rocks and bark at base of tree.								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Cirriphyllum piliferum</i>		T /	G5 / S2?	2	0	0	0	0
		On soil, humus, and decayed wood, in moist, shady places; Probably a calciphile. In KY, on sandstone, moist soil on forested slope, fallen branches, rotten log (Crum and Anderson).								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Dicranodontium asperulum</i>		E /	G4G5 / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		On damp or wet, acid rock, especially on cliffs, rarely on thin soil or humus over rock or on bark at the base of trees (Crum and Anderson).								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Entodon brevisetus</i>		E /	G4? / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		On bark, especially at the base of hardwood trees, also on logs or stumps and rock (Crum and Anderson)								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Neckera pennata</i>		T /	G5 / S2?	4	0	0	0	0
		On vertical substances, most commonly on the trunks of trees, sometimes on rock, rarely on logs or stumps, in coniferous forests, often in coves and wind gaps in the mountains (Crum and Anderson). In KY, all in sandstone ravines, usually noted as narrow, on bark.								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Oncophorus raii</i>		E /	G3 / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		On damp or wet acid rocks, mostly on cliffs and often near waterfalls in the mountains (Crum and Anderson).								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Polytrichum pallidisetum</i>	A Hair Cap Moss	T /	G4 / S2?	1	0	0	0	0
		On soil humus and rocks in moist conditions or hardwood forests.								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Polytrichum strictum</i>		E /	G4 / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		On soil or humus (frequently overlying rock), sometimes on stumps, characteristic of banks or sides of trails in rather dry open woods or pastures, only rarely in moist or wet woods (Crum and Anderson).								
Letcher	Mosses	<i>Sphagnum quinquefarium</i>	A Sphagnum Moss	E /	G5 / S1?	1	0	0	0	0
		In KY, seeping sandstone outcrops.								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Adlumia fungosa</i>	Allegheny-vine	E /	G4 / S1	0	2	0	0	0
		Cliffs, talus, rocky slopes, rich stream-bottom forests, cool rocky forests (Weakley 1998); well drained sunny openings, rocky and sandy slopes. invasive following fire and logging.								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Angelica triquinata</i>	Filmy Angelica	E /	G4 / S1S2	2	0	0	0	0
		Hardwood forests on mountain summits, thickets, rocky slopes, roadbanks, stream margins and meadows.								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	Yellow Wild Indigo	T /	G5 / S1S2	3	0	0	0	0
		Sandhills, pine flatwoods, xeric woodlands, ridges, woodland edges, and roadbanks (Weakley 1998).								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Botrychium matricariifolium</i>	Matricary Grape-fern	E /	G5 / S1	2	0	0	0	0
		Thickets and rich soils in subacid conditions (Gleason & Cronquist 1991).								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Boykinia aconitifolia</i>	Brook Saxifrage	T /	G4 / S2	1	0	0	0	0
		Streambanks, riverbanks, in crevices in spray cliffs around waterfalls, seepages (Weakley 1998).								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Carex aestivalis</i>	Summer Sedge	E /	G4 / S1	0	1	0	0	0
		Sandstone and acid soils of mountain woods; in KY sandstone cliff faces.								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Carex appalachica</i>	Appalachian Sedge	T /	G4 / S2?	1	0	0	0	0
		Dry mesic woodland openings.								
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Allegheny Chinkapin	T /	G5 / S2	1	0	0	0	0
		Xeric forests and woodlands, generally in fire-maintained habitats (Weakley 1998); dry or moist acid soil (Gleason & Cronquist 1991).								

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Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>	Rock Harlequin	S /	G4G5 / S3?	4	0	0	0	0
	DRY OR ROCKY WOODS AND SANDSTONE OUTCROPS.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Cymophyllus fraserianus</i>	Fraser's Sedge	E /	G4 / S1	5	1	0	0	0
	Rich mountain woods; cove forests, mostly rather acidic and associated with rhododendron maximum, at moderate elevations (Weakley 1998); in KY, reported along streams at the base of mnt slopes (Medley) and above 2000 ft. elevation (Kral).									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Eupatorium steelei</i>	Steele's Joe-pye-weed	T /	G4 / S2	3	0	0	0	0
	Gentle slopes of degraded sandstone and shale, openings in canopy of <i>Acer rubrum</i> , <i>Liriodendron</i> , <i>Q. velutina</i> , <i>Q. borealis</i> , <i>Q. alba</i> , above 700 m (2300 ft), esp. found on hilltops and colonizes to roadbanks below.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Gentiana decora</i>	Showy Gentian	S /	G4? / S3	4	3	0	0	0
	MOIST WOODS AND OPENINGS IN CANOPY ON MOUNTAIN SUMMITS.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Hexastylis contracta</i>	Southern Heartleaf	E / SOMC	G3 / S1	0	1	0	0	0
	Deciduous forests with acidic soil.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i>	Michaux's Bluets	E /	G4? / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Streambanks, grassy balds, moist forests, seepy rock outcrops, spray cliffs, and moist disturbed areas (Weakley 1998); moist soil in the mountains (Gleason & Cronquist 1991).									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	Eastern Waterleaf	T /	G5 / S2?	2	0	0	0	0
	Moist or wet woods, open wet places.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	White Walnut	S / SOMC	G3G4 / S3	2	0	0	0	0
	MESIC WOODED RAVINES AND ALONG STREAMS									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Leucothoe recurva</i>	Red-twigg Doghobble	E /	G4G5 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Moist areas in mountain woods.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's Cap Lily	T /	G5 / S1S2	1	1	0	0	0
	Moist meadows, moist/wet woods including floodplains and coves									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Listera smallii</i>	Kidney-leaf Twayblade	T /	G4 / S2	6	2	0	0	0
	Humus of damp woods and thickets, bogs or shaded, weed-free humus below rhododendron on mountain slopes and stream heads.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>	Sweet Pinesap	T / SOMC	G3 / S2	0	1	0	0	0
	Sandstone ridgetops, chiefly pine woods but also mesophytic woods.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Oenothera perennis</i>	Small Sundrops	E /	G5 / S1S2	0	1	0	0	0
	Dry to moist open ground, open woods, fields, and meadows.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>	Golden Club	T /	G5 / S2	1	0	0	0	0
	Swamps and shallow water, chiefly on coastal plain; also peaty and stagnant water, streambeds in the piedmont, and bogs and swamps in the mountains (Weakley 1998).									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>	Rose Pogonia	E /	G5 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Open bogs and wet marshy meadows, grassy seepage slopes.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Prosartes maculata</i>	Nodding Mandarin	S /	G3G4 / S3?	0	4	0	0	0
	Rich mountain woods (Gleason & Cronquist 1991). In KY, rare and local in rich mesophytic forests (Medley 1993). Typical of "mesic forest" formation. Typical of transition from C to E (or both), where C = Typical of moderate base-status and fertility, and E = Typical of extremely acid, infertile soils (J. Campbell, globally rare plants in the Interior Low Plateau).									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>	Canada Burnet	E /	G5 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Marshes, wet meadows, and damp prairies (Gleason & Cronquist 1991); also fens and spray zones around waterfalls (Weakley 1998); peaty or boggy soils; in KY, found on moist exposed rocky sandstone ledge.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Saxifraga michauxii</i>	Michaux's Saxifrage	T /	G4G5 / S2	1	0	0	0	0
	Moist or wet ledges and rocky woods in the mountains (Gleason & Cronquist 1991).									

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Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Saxifraga micranthidifolia</i>	Lettuce-leaf Saxifrage	E /	G5 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Wet banks and rocks in mountain streams.									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Solidago curtisii</i>	Curtis' Goldenrod	T /	G4G5 / S2S3	1	1	0	0	0
	Rich or open woods, chiefly in the uplands; base of bluffs and along bluff ledges (Steyermark 1975).									
Letcher	Vascular Plants	<i>Trillium undulatum</i>	Painted Trillium	T /	G5 / S2	2	3	0	0	0
	Mesic ravine forests, upper elevation mesic hemlock forests, seeps in mesic forests and an oak-chesnut forest.									
Letcher	Gastropods	<i>Glyphyalinia rhoadsi</i>	Sculpted Glyph	T /	G5 / S1	0	1	0	0	0
	LEAF LITTER IN UPLAND WOODS (HUBRICHT 1985).									
Letcher	Gastropods	<i>Patera panselenus</i>	Virginia Bladetooth	S /	G2 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	UNDER ROCKS AND LOGS ON WOODED FLOODPLAINS, HILLSIDES, AND RAVINES (HUBRICHT 1985).									
Letcher	Crustaceans	<i>Cambarus parvoculus</i>	Mountain Midget Crayfish	T /	G4 / S2	2	1	0	0	0
	ROCKY STREAMS (HOBBS 1989).									
Letcher	Insects	<i>Erora laeta</i>	Early Hairstreak	T /	G3G4 / S1	0	1	0	0	0
	DECIDUOUS OR MIXED WOODS -- OFTEN ALONG DIRT ROADS OR OPEN RIDGETOPS (OPLER AND MALIKUL 1992).									
Letcher	Insects	<i>Litobrancha recurvata</i>	A Burrowing Mayfly	S /	G5 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Nymphs live in small brooks and streams and burrow in mixtures of silt and sand (Edmunds et al. 1976). McCafferty (pers comm) indicated that it has special habitat requirements such as heavy mud or marl substrate and relatively cool water in depositional areas of small streams.									
Letcher	Insects	<i>Papaipema speciosissima</i>	Osmunda Borer Moth	E /	G4 / S1S2	1	0	0	0	0
Letcher	Insects	<i>Phyciodes batesii</i>	Tawny Crescent	H / SOMC	G4 / SH	0	1	0	0	0
	MOIST MEADOWS AND PASTURES, DRY ROCKY RIDGES (OPLER 1992).									
Letcher	Insects	<i>Stylurus scudderii</i>	Zebra Clubtail	E /	G4 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	CLEAR FOREST STREAMS AND SMALL RIVERS WITH RIFFLES, A SLOW TO RAPID CURRENT, AND A SAND/MUCK BOTTOM (DUNKLE 2000).									
Letcher	Fishes	<i>Etheostoma susanae</i>	Cumberland darter	E / C SOMC	G1G2 / S1	1	0	0	0	0
	Small to moderate-sized streams in pools, shoals, and backwaters with sand, gravel, and cobble/boulder, or bedrock with low to moderate gradient.									
Letcher	Fishes	<i>Phoxinus Cumberlandensis</i>	Blackside Dace	T / LT	G2 / S2	12	0	1	2	0
	Small upland streams usually in pools that are well shaded by dense riparian vegetation and with cool water (<20 C) much of year. Width ranges from 1 to 4 m with depths to 1 m. Substrates consist of bedrock and rubble with some areas of silty sand. Current is moderate to sluggish. Usually in association with considerable cover (Starnes and Starnes 1981, Starnes and Starnes 1978a,b, Etnier and Starnes 1993).									
Letcher	Amphibians	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	Eastern Hellbender	S / SOMC	G3G4T3T4 / S3	1	0	0	0	0
	CONFINED TO RUNNING WATERS OF FAIRLY LARGE STREAMS AND RIVERS.									
Letcher	Amphibians	<i>Plethodon wehrlei</i>	Wehrle's Salamander	E /	G4 / S1	2	0	0	0	0
	THE SINGLE KENTUCKY LOCALITY IS A SHALE OUTCROP ALONG A STREAM.									
Letcher	Breeding Birds	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	S /	G5 / S3B,S4N	2	0	0	0	0
	FOREST AND OPEN WOODLAND, CONIFEROUS, MIXED, OR DECIDUOUS, PRIMARILY IN CONIF. IN MORE NORTHERN AND MOUNTAINOUS PORTION OF RANGE (B83COM01NA). MIGRATES THROUGH VARIOUS HABITATS, MAINLY ALONG RIDGES, LAKESHORES, & COASTLINES (B83NAT01NA).									
Letcher	Breeding Birds	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	T /	G5 / S1S2	1	0	0	0	0
	VARIOUS SITUATIONS FROM LOWLANDS TO MOUNTAINS, OPEN COUNTRY TO FORESTED REGIONS, AND HUMIDS REGIONS TO DESERT; MOST FREQUENTLY IN HILLY OR MOUNTAINOUS AREAS, ESPECIALLY IN VICINITY OF CLIFFS (B83COM01NA).									

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Letcher	Breeding Birds	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	S /	G5 / S3S4B	1	0	0	0	0
		Second-growth woods, borders of swamps and streams, dense growths of small trees, and shrubs along edges of woods and old pastures, gardens and parks, old orchards. In migration and winter in various forest, woodland, and scrub habitats.								
Letcher	Breeding Birds	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	S /	G5 / S3	1	0	0	0	0
		OPEN AND PARTLY OPEN COUNTRY IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SITUATIONS, OFTEN AROUND HUMAN HABITATION (B83COM01NA). IN NORTHERN WINTER OFTEN ROOSTS IN DENSE CONIFERS; ALSO ROOSTS IN NEST BOXES IF AVAILABLE (A85MAR01NA).								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi maurus</i>	Kentucky Red-backed Vole	S / SOMC	G5T3T4 / S3	2	2	0	0	0
		Red-backed voles prefer cool, moist habitats and are more commonly found in northern latitudes (northern United States and Canada). Its occurrence in Kentucky is near the southern terminus of its range.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	S / SOMC	G3G4 / S3	2	0	0	0	0
		Rafinesque's big-eared bats use a variety of sites for roosting including caves, protected sites along cliffines, old mine portals, abandoned tunnels, cisterns, old or seldom used buildings, etc. Apparently less frequently use tree cavities.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel	S /	G5 / S2S3	0	1	0	0	0
		Prime habitat unknown. Seems to occur in farmland.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis	T / SOMC	G3 / S2	13	0	0	0	0
		Lieb's bats use a variety of habitats. They occur in caves, mines, protected sites along cliffines, abandoned buildings, and are occasionally found roosting under rocks on the ground or on the floors of caves. Summer habitat is currently unknown, but may be similar sites.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	E / LE	G2 / S1S2	13	0	0	0	0
		Indiana bats use primarily caves for hibernacula, although they are occasionally found in old mine portals.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Cinereus Shrew	S /	G5 / S3	6	0	0	0	0
		Moist forests and meadows. Rich woods.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Sorex dispar blitchi</i>	Long-tailed Shrew	E /	G4T3? / S1	2	1	0	0	0
		Cool, moist forested habitats.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk	S /	G5 / S2S3	1	0	0	0	0
		WOODED AREAS, ESPECIALLY ALONG CLIFFLINES. WILL USE ABANDONED BUILDINGS.								
Letcher	Mammals	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	American Black Bear	S /	G5 / S2	1	0	0	0	0
		LARGELY FORESTED AREAS.								
Letcher	Communities	<i>Appalachian acid seep</i>		/	GNR / S2	3	0	0	0	0
Letcher	Communities	<i>Appalachian mesophytic forest</i>		/	GNR / S5	1	0	0	0	0
Letcher	Communities	<i>Appalachian sub-xeric forest</i>		/	GNR / S5	1	0	0	0	0
Letcher	Communities	<i>Hemlock-mixed forest</i>		/	GNR / S5	1	0	0	0	0